Message Text

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PAGE 01 BOGOTA 07668 172049Z ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 ARA-14 ISO-00 /023 W

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R 162026Z AUG 78 FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA TO USDOC WASHDC INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 9511 AMEMBASSY LIMA USICA WASHDC

UNCLAS BOGOTA 7668

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: BEXP, ETEL, CO

SUBJECT: COLOR TELEVISION

REF: BOGOTA 7522

- 1. MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS JOSE MANUEL ARIAS CARRIZOSA STATED IN A TV INTERVIEW ON AUGUST 11 THAT COLOR TELEVISION IS DEFINITELY ONE OF HIS HIGHEST PRIORITIES. THIS HAS YET TO BE DISCUSSED WITH PRESIDENT TURBAY OR THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS BUT ARIAS STATED THAT HIS PROPOSAL MAY BE PRESENTED THIS WEEK.
- 2. COLOR TRANSMISSIONS, ACCORDING TO THE MINISTER, WOULD BEGIN IN JANUARY 1979. BROADCASTING CONTRACTS WITH THE THREE NETWORKS EXPIRE IN DECEMBER 1978. NEW TENDERS WILL BE LET FOR TV BROADCASTING IN COLOR. IN 1977, A LAW CALLING FOR ALL NEW STATIONS TO BROADCAST IN COLOR FAILED TO PASS THE COLOMBIAN LEGISLATION BUT ARIAS STATED THAT HE DOES NOT SEE THE NECESSITY FOR LEGISLATION. WHETHER TO BROADCAST IN COLOR OR NOT, IS A DECISION TO BE MADE BY INRAVISION (NATIONAL TELEVISION AGENCY), STATED ARIAS.
- 3. ARIAS EXPRESSED SOME CONCERN ABOUT THE COST OF UNCLASSIFIED

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COLOR RECEIVERS BUT HE STATED THAT THIS FACTOR SHOULD NOT RULE OUT COLOR BROADCASTING. EXISTING BLACK AND WHITE RECEIVERS WILL STILL RECEIVE TV SIGNALS. COLOMBIANS WHO CANNOT AFFORD COLOR RECEIVERS WILL NOT BE DENIED SERVICE WHILE THOSE WHO CAN AFFORD THEM WILL RECEIVE BETTER SERVICE.

4. COMMENT: ABOVE UNDERLINES NEED TO PRESENT COLOR TV SEMINAR IN NOVEMBER 1978 RATHER THAN IN MAY 1979 AS PER REFTEL. WOULD APPRECIATE DECISION RE REFTEL ASAP.
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Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note: Disposition Action: n/a

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